

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1           1. (currently amended) A locking element for holding  
2 together threaded parts such as screws and nuts against undesired  
3 loosening, the locking element comprising ~~at least~~ two annular lock  
4 washers lying on each other and having center holes, ~~wherein the~~  
5 washers having inner ~~[[sur]]~~ faces lying on each other ~~[[have]]~~ and  
6 provided with teeth and ~~[[the]]~~ outer faces ~~[[are]]~~ turned away  
7 from each other and also provided with teeth, ~~characterized in that~~  
8 at least one of the washers being formed at the respective center  
9 hole (14) has on the respective outer face with a rounding [[(6)]]  
10 or a groove (24) on the inner face that is provided with teeth.

1           2. (currently amended) The locking element, possibly  
2 according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that the tooth wherein~~ edges  
3 ~~[[ (8) ]]~~ of the tooth flanks ~~(7)~~ teeth of the inner faces are  
4 oriented off-radial.

1           3. (currently amended) The locking element according to  
2 claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the ~~[[tooth]]~~ edges ~~[[ (8) ]]~~  
3 of the tooth flanks ~~(7)~~ teeth of the inner faces are V-shaped.

1           4. (currently amended) The locking element according to  
2 claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the ~~[[tooth]]~~ edges ~~[[ (8) ]]~~  
3 of the tooth flanks ~~(7)~~ teeth of the inner faces are U-shaped.

1                   5. (currently amended) The locking element according to  
2 claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the [[tooth]] edges [[ (8) ]]  
3 of the ~~tooth flanks (7)~~ teeth of the inner faces are S-shaped.

4                   6. (currently amended) The locking element, possibly  
5 according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the edges of  
6 the teeth of the outer faces [[ (5) ]] have a non-radial direction.

1                   7. (currently amended) The locking element according to  
2 claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the edges of the teeth of  
3 the outer faces [[ (5) ]] have a curvature.

1                   8. (currently amended) The locking element ~~, possibly~~  
2 according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a  
3 sleeve connecting the lock washers ~~(1, 2)~~ are connected to each  
4 other ~~by means of a sleeve (16, 21)~~.

1                   9. (currently amended) The locking element according to  
2 claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sleeve [[ (21) ]] is  
3 disposed on inner surfaces of the center holes [[ (14) ]].

1                   10. (currently amended) The locking element according  
2 to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sleeve [[ (16) ]] is  
3 disposed on outer surfaces of the lock washers ~~(1, 2)~~.

11. (canceled)

1           12. (currently amended) The locking element according  
2 to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sleeve ~~{16, 21}~~ has a  
3 lip that laterally extends over or into an edge of the lock washers  
4 ~~{1, 2}~~.

1           13. (currently amended) The locking element according  
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lip is annular.

1           14. (currently amended) The locking element according  
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lip is formed by  
3 tabs ~~[(18)]~~.

1           15. (currently amended) The locking element according  
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~tabs are~~ lip is  
3 formed by annular segments ~~[(17)]~~.

1           16. (currently amended) The locking element according  
2 to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sleeve is a slotted  
3 ring.

1                   17. (currently amended) The locking element according  
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a transition between the  
3 sleeve ~~{16, 21}~~ and the lip has a rounding ~~[[and/]]~~ or a chamfer.

1                   18. (currently amended) The locking element according  
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a transition between the  
3 sleeve and the lip is ~~designed~~ perpendicular.

1                   19. (currently amended) The locking element according  
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lock washers have a  
3 groove ~~{22, 23}~~ for receiving the lip.